

HALL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OCTOBER 5, 2004

The Hall County Board of Supervisors met September 24, 2004, by published call in the county board meeting room, 121 South Pine, Grand Island.

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pamela Lancaster.

INVOCATION - Invocation was given by Pamela Lancaster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

ROLL CALL - Present on roll call were Scott Arnold, Jim Eriksen, Richard Hartman, Bob Humiston, Bud Jeffries, Pamela Lancaster and Robert Rye. Also present was a representative from the *Grand Island Independent*.

CONSENT AGENDA – Eriksen made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve the following by consent agenda:

1. Accept and place on file the minutes of the September 21st meeting
2. 5a Approve Resolution #04-0060 for the snow removal for Kuesters Lake
3. 5b Approve Resolution #04-0061 for snow removal for Amick Acres East
4. 5c Approve the quarterly diesel fuel claim in the amount of \$983.00
5. 7 Accept and place on file the Hall County Treasurer's annual report on delinquent taxes for 2002 and prior years
6. 11a Approve Resolution #04-0062 for exchange of collateral for the state bank of Cairo in the amount of \$315,000.00
7. 11b approve Resolution #04-0063 for withdrawal of collateral for US Bankcorp in the amount of \$75,000.00
8. 15 Accept and place on file communications from the Regional Planning Commission
9. 24 Accept and place on file the Hall County Treasurer's Miscellaneous Receipts
10. 25 Accept and place on file communications as received

Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

13 DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CITY/COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITY -

The Hall County Board attended the work study session with the City of Grand Island on September 21 and the city requested that the county approve designating 5 acres of land at the new jail site for the proposed City/County Law Enforcement Center.

Gary Greer, City Administrator was present. The City has done extensive work on this proposed law enforcement center and have looked at a location by City Hall but it is not large enough. They would appreciate the county's interest in this situation and it appears that the jail land is the most appropriate location. They are requesting the county to provide this land at no cost.

Lancaster stated that when the land was purchased the jail was place on the property so there could be future expansion.

Arnold stated that when the land was purchased it was originally proposed to include the safety center in the jail building but that was changed. Now the county needs the voters to approve the bond issue for the jail. All along this has been part of the long range plan and it is important to make this a joint venture. In the past, there was talk to expand the jail at the present location but that is not possible. He questioned how the board wants to proceed? There are legal issues that will need to be addressed but these details could be worked out later.

Arnold made a motion and Eriksen seconded to make this land available for the joint City/County Law enforcement Center.

Hartman stated that the County currently owns the present safety center and he questioned if the County would have to pay the City and what would be involved. Lancaster stated that the details have not been worked out and this could be done later.

Mr. Greer stated that during the meetings regarding this project it was modeled after the safety center in Kearney. The city provided the facility and the cost of the maintenance and the utilities are funded jointly. The cost to Kearney and Buffalo County is \$25,000.00 a year. The city will use the sales tax for the project. They want to work together to protect the citizens of Hall County. Hartman commented that 5 years ago this was not accepted but now it is. Mr. Greer stated that the timing is right now.

Arnold stated that it appears the county is rushing into this agreement but this is the right place for the facility and it is necessary for the safety of Hall County.

Eriksen stated that one of the primary issues is the location and there are adequate acres for the jail and law enforcement center and they would be compatible. This is a good opportunity and the project should move forward.

Jeffries stated that there are still a lot of details that need to be worked out and quite often when there is an agreement with the city the county comes out on the short end of the stick.

Eriksen called for the question. The vote on the motion to make the land available to the city was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

Lancaster stated that items 12 on the agenda will not be necessary because it also addressed this issue.

6. 9:30 A.M. STEVE SCHERR DISCUSSION REGARDING WOOD RIVER VIADUCT ON HWY #11 - Attorney Steve Scherr from Hastings was present and he stated that he was approached by a group of people from Wood River concerning the proposed Wood River viaduct and he would like to outline the issues. The people support the viaduct but have serious concerns about closing the Thelan crossing. If this crossing is closed the residents on the west side of Wood River will be cut off. There are people who walk from this part of town to access the downtown area. The people are asking the Hall County Board to ask the Nebraska Department of Roads to review the plan to close the Thelan crossing.

Jeffries stated that there has been a public hearing held but he thinks the county board still has to approve the project.

Hartman expressed concern that the Nebraska Department of Roads has not contacted the county concerning this issue. Lancaster stated that this issue could be referred to the public works committee for discussion.

Chairman Lancaster called for public participation.

Richard Devore stated that he lives on Schauppsville Road and has lived in Wood River for 40 years. He stated he is not opposed to the overpass but the Thelan crossing is the primary crossing for students and elderly on the west side of town. If closed it would decrease the value of the property in that area. He stated he would like to know how many people walk across that crossing.

Ken Woitaszewski 8037 S 110th Road stated that he lives outside of the city limits and they do not have any representation but he has a serious concern about closing the Thelan crossing. He also expressed concern on moving equipment if it is closed.

Another member of the audience stated that he would like to have the county planning committee get involved. If the crossing is closed it will shut off a part of the city. Hartman questioned what would happen to the Cargill elevator.

Lloyd Luehr stated that he is a farmer south of Wood River and he asked if the county has any authority and if the board can help with the state to let them know what the community wants. If the Thelan crossing is closed it would deter the business in Wood River. Lancaster stated that the County Board has not been approached about this issue.

Pat Thelen was present and stated that they have ran the elevator for years and it would affect the elevator and cause congestion in that area. Also the county would inherit part of the road.

Charles Mead stated that he owns a repair shop and if the crossing it will affect the residence on that side of town and the schools. He stated he attended the meetings and the state ask for input but at the last meeting on September 15, 2004 they would not

take any input from the public. The state was asked if they could use the proposed east crossing and they said they would not.

Joyce Willoughby stated that she is on the elementary school board and if the Thelen crossing is closed it will bring traffic to the north side of the school where there are churches, a preschool and the school. She stated that this needs more thought and planning.

County Surveyor Dan Hostler stated that the reason the county may be involved is that some of the road will be returned to the county.

Jeffries stated that from the comments this is of importance to the Wood River community. The public works committee needs to meet and schedule a meeting with John Craig and find out what the county's involvement will be.

Jeffries motion to refer this to the public works committee and return to the board with information make take time to schedule a meeting Arnold second the motion

Eriksen stated that it seems that the main problem is the location of the overpass. Charles Mead stated that there was a group that met when the initial discussion was held and at that time the proposed location was on the east side but when the State of Nebraska did a study that place it on the west side of town.

Hartman questioned if the regional planning commission had discussed this. He also questioned who was on the commission representing the Wood River area.

Arnold stated that this will be referred to the committee and come back for additional discussion.

Vote on the motion to refer this Wood River Viaduct issue to the public work committee was taken. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Hartman was absent for the vote.

2 DISCUSS & APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH LANCASTER COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES – Lancaster stated that this agreement is self explanatory. Arnold pointed out that the rate has increased to \$234.00 a day but the county needs the services. Jeffries made a motion and Arnold seconded to authorize the chair to sign the agreement with Lancaster County Youth Services. Arnold, Eriksen, Humiston, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Hartman and Jeffries were absent for the voted.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Chairman Lancaster called for public participation and no one responded.

4 COMPUTER COMMITTEE & IT DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING HIRING A PC TECHNICIAN – IT Director Doug Drudik was present. They received 25 applications for this position and interviewed 5 applicants. Josh Ellis from Scotts Bluff has been selected to fill the position. He has network experience and experience with the hardware and the wireless hardware for the law enforcement projects. The committee and Mr. Drudik recommend hiring Mr. Ellis at \$36,000.00 a year. The

committee has discussed placing this position on a pay range and that will be addressed later. This will be a cost savings for the county to have some one on staff

Arnold made a motion and Humiston seconded to approve the hiring of Josh Ellis as the county computer technician. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried. Mr. Ellis will start October 18th.

8 CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE DISCUSS & APPROVE ALVINE AND ASSOCIATES DRAFT FOR RFP FOR SMOKE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR COUNTY JAIL – The correction committee has been working on the smoke management system for the old portion of the jail. The state fire marshal has ordered this to be completed in order to keep this portion of the jail open. This is the area that is used for the work release inmates. Alvine and Associates is better qualified to prepare the request for proposal and they will also monitor the project until it is completed. There fee would be \$5,400.00.

Arnold made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve Alvine and Associates to prepare the request for proposal and oversee the project to completion. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

9. APPROVE MAXIMUS TO DO COST ANALYSIS AUDIT TO DETERMINE NEW DAILY RATE FOR JAIL CELLS – Lancaster stated that to house inmates it is important to make sure that the daily rate is correct. Maximus will do an audit of the total cost of staff, computers and other fees that will be charged to other counties and also the federal marshals. This is important in order to recoup the correct costs. The cost of the audit will be \$3,500.00.

Arnold made a motion and Jeffries seconded to approve Maximus to the cost analysis audit. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

10 DISCUSS & APPROVE JOINING THE NATIONAL NACO ASSOCIATION – There are some grants funds that are available for the GIS department through the national association but in order to participate the county would need to be a member of the national association, so this item was placed on the agenda. After discussion it was determined that Hall County already has this software so no action is needed.

Held a board of equalization meeting

16 COMMENCE AUDIT OF BI WEEKLY PAY CLAIMS AND ACTION ON CLAIM AUDIT Jeffries made a motion and Humiston seconded to approve the bi weekly pay claims. Arnold, Eriksen, Hartman, Humiston, Jeffries, Lancaster and Rye all voted yes and none voted no. Motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS – Hartman – no report

Humiston – no report

Eriksen – He attended the Region III meeting and discussion was held on the EPC charges. The current rate is \$503.00 a day, the first four days are paid by the state and the fifth day is paid by Mary Lanning. If the stay goes beyond 5 days the costs are charged to the county. Of the 23 EPC cases in Hall County, seven cases continued beyond the 5th day.

Rye - No report

Jeffries – He stated that from the last board meeting Don Kelly was present concerning a drainage issue at the Hall County Airport and the committee did not meet concerning this issue. He requested that County Surveyor Dan Hostler talk to the city. Mr. Hostler reported that the mowing has been done.

Arnold – No report but he stated that it was his daughters 16th birthday.

Lancaster stated that she has completed a number of the jail bond issue informational meetings. She also noted that she received copies of thank you letters from the Convention Visitors Bureau regarding the help they received from Emmett Arnett and the inmate work crew when their office was moving.

NEW OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS – County Clerk Marl Conley stated that she had received a contract of internet access support services from MCI from IT Director Doug Drudik. This agreement needs to be approved by the County Board and signed by the Chairman. Mr. Drudik explained that the cost was \$1,150.00 but with this contract it would be \$750.00 which will be a savings for the county. This will be placed on the October 19th agenda.

Lancaster called for new of unfinished business and no one responded.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be October 19.

Marla J. Conley Hall County Clerk